

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
10/027,807

Applicant(s)
Gan

Examiner
Arun Chakrabarti

Art Unit
1634



--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/9/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22-25, 27, 29-31, 34-36, 43, and 45-47.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on Oct 19, 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>0603</u> |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449), Paper No(s). _____ | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CAR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Pamela Sherwood on June 23, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 45 has been amended by substituting the number ----- 44----- with the number ----
43 ----.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a method for validating the effect of a candidate gene that is expressed in mammalian neural cell of interest, the method comprising:

- a) producing a candidate dsRNA which comprises at least 100 nucleotides of the candidate gene;
- b) introducing the candidate dsRNA into a reference mammalian neural cell; and

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c) validating the effect of the candidate gene by detecting an alteration in a cellular activity or a cellular state in the reference mammalian neural cell, wherein the alteration is the result of specific attenuation of mRNA corresponding to the candidate in the reference mammalian neural cell, indicating that the candidate gene plays a functional role in mammalian neural cells.

Although Leptin (U.S. Patent 6,135,942) (October 24, 2000) teaches a method for validating the effect of a candidate gene that is expressed in mammalian cell of interest, the method comprising:

a) producing a candidate dsRNA which comprises nucleotides of the candidate gene;
b) introducing the candidate dsRNA into a reference mammalian cell; and
c) validating the effect of the candidate gene by detecting an alteration in a cellular activity or a cellular state in the reference mammalian cell, wherein the alteration is the result of specific attenuation of mRNA corresponding to the candidate in the reference mammalian neural cell, indicating that the candidate gene plays a functional role in mammalian cells,

Leptin does not teach the method of producing a candidate dsRNA which comprises at least 100 nucleotides of the candidate gene.

In view of the absence of either teaching or suggestion of such a method for validating the effect of a candidate gene that is expressed in mammalian neural cell of interest, the method comprising:

a) producing a candidate dsRNA which comprises at least 100 nucleotides of the candidate gene;

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b) introducing the candidate dsRNA into a reference mammalian neural cell; and
c) validating the effect of the candidate gene by detecting an alteration in a cellular activity or a cellular state in the reference mammalian neural cell, wherein the alteration is the result of specific attenuation of mRNA corresponding to the candidate in the reference mammalian neural cell, indicating that the candidate gene plays a functional role in mammalian neural cells and also in view of the unexpected result submitted by the applicant on June 9, 2003, the present invention is novel and non-obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arun Chakrabarti, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 306-5818. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM-4:30 PM from Monday to Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion, can be reached on (703) 308-1119. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 746-4979. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group analyst Chantae Dessau whose

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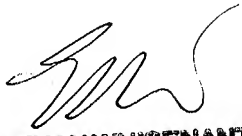
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telephone number is (703) 605-1237.

Arun Chakrabarti,

Patent Examiner,

June 23, 2003



**ETHAN WHISENANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER**